

CHAPTER 2.1.14.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Article 2.1.14.1.

For the purposes of this *Code*, avian influenza (AI) is defined as 'an infection of poultry caused either by any influenza A virus which has an IVPI in 6-week-old chickens greater than 1.2 or by an influenza A virus of H5 or H7 subtype'.

Poultry is defined as 'all birds reared or kept in captivity for the production of meat or eggs for consumption, for the production of other commercial products, for restocking supplies of game, or for breeding these categories of birds'.

For the purpose of *international trade*, this chapter deals not only with the occurrence of clinical signs caused by AI virus, but also with the presence of infection with AI virus in the absence of clinical signs. Articles dealing with trade in *commodities* recommend different sanitary measures, depending on the presence or absence of clinical signs.

The following defines the occurrence of AI virus infection:

- 1) AI virus has been isolated and identified as such from poultry or a product derived from poultry, or
- 2) viral antigen or viral RNA specific to H5 or H7 subtype of AI virus has been identified in samples from poultry or a product derived from poultry, or
- 3) antibodies to H5 or H7 subtype of AI virus that are not a consequence of vaccination have been detected in poultry.

For the purposes of this *Code*, the *incubation period* for AI shall be 28 days.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Manual*.

Any vaccine used should comply with the standards described in the *Manual*.

Article 2.1.14.1 bis

The AI status of a country or zone can be determined on the basis of the following criteria:

- 1) the outcome of a risk assessment identifying all potential factors for AI occurrence and their historic perspective;
- 2) that AI is notifiable in the whole country, an on-going AI awareness programme is in place, and all notified suspect occurrences of AI are subjected to field and, where applicable, laboratory investigations;
- 3) appropriate surveillance is in place to demonstrate the presence of infection in the absence of clinical signs in poultry, and the risk posed by birds other than poultry; this may be achieved through an AI surveillance programme in accordance with this chapter and Chapter 1.3.6.

Article 2.1.14.2.

AI free country or compartment

A country or compartment may be considered free from AI when it has been shown that AI infection has not been present for the past 12 months. If a stamping out policy is applied ~~infected poultry are slaughtered~~, this period shall be 6 months after the slaughter of the last infected poultry.

In the case of a country or zone in which vaccination is being conducted, the ongoing surveillance and monitoring programme (carried out in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 1.3.6.) based on virus isolation, virus detection or serology should be carried out on all vaccinated flocks. In each vaccinated flock, the number of birds to be tested should provide at least a 95% level of confidence of detecting a prevalence of AI infection of 20%. In the case of an enterprise in which vaccination is being conducted, the ongoing surveillance and monitoring programme (carried out in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 1.3.6.) based on virus isolation, virus detection or serology should be carried out to provide at least a 95% level of confidence of detecting a prevalence of AI infection of 10%. If a serological test is used, it should be able to distinguish vaccinated birds from infected birds. ~~Additional security should be provided by~~ The use of relevant serological tests in identifiable sentinel birds will help to identify field infections in vaccinated flocks.

Article 2.1.14.3.

When importing from an AI free country or compartment, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:
for live poultry

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the poultry:

- 1) showed no clinical sign of AI on the day of shipment;
- 2) were kept in an AI free country or compartment since they were hatched or for the past 28 days.

[Note: If the poultry were vaccinated against AI, the nature of the vaccine used and the date of vaccination should be stated in the certificate.]

Article 2.1.14.4.

Regardless of the AI status of the country of origin, *Veterinary Administrations* should require for the importation of live birds other than poultry:

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the birds:

- 1) showed no clinical sign of AI on the day of shipment;
- 2) were kept in isolation ~~a quarantine station~~ since they were hatched or for the 28 days prior to shipment and showed no clinical sign of AI during the isolation ~~quarantine~~ period;
- 3) were subjected to a diagnostic test 7 to 14 days prior to shipment to demonstrate freedom from AI.

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Article 2.1.14.9.

Regardless of the AI status of the country of origin, *Veterinary Administrations* should require for the importation of semen of birds other than poultry.

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the donor birds:

- 1) were kept in isolation ~~quarantine~~ for the 28 days prior to semen collection;
- 2) showed no clinical sign of AI during the isolation ~~quarantine~~ period;
- 3) were tested between 7 and 14 days prior to semen collection and shown to be free of AI.

Article 2.1.14.10.

When importing from AI free country or compartment, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for fresh meat and processed meat of poultry, and poultry viscera

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the entire consignment of meat comes from birds:

- 1) which have been kept in an AI free country or compartment since they were hatched or for the past 28 days;
- 2) which have been slaughtered in an *approved abattoir* and have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections for AI with favourable results.

~~Article 2.1.14.11.~~

~~When importing from AI free country or compartment, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:~~

~~for poultry viscera~~

~~the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the entire consignment of meat comes from birds:~~

- ~~1) which have been kept in an AI free country or compartment since they were hatched or for the past 28 days;~~
- ~~2) which have been slaughtered in an *approved abattoir* and have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections for AI with favourable results.~~

Article 2.1.14.12.

When importing from a country or compartment not considered free from AI, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for fresh meat of poultry

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the entire consignment of meat comes from birds:

- 1) which have been kept in an *establishment* free from AI for at least 28 days and regularly inspected by the *Official Veterinarian*;
- 2) which have been tested to give a 95% probability of detecting a 5% prevalence of AI infection not more than 7 days prior to slaughter using virus detection or virus isolation tests, with negative results;
- 3) which have been slaughtered in an *approved abattoir* which has not processed poultry infected with AI since last cleaned and disinfected, and have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections for AI with favourable results.

Article 2.1.14.12 bis

When importing from a country or compartment free from clinical signs of AI but not considered free from AI infection, Veterinary Administrations should require:

for fresh meat of poultry

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the entire consignment of meat comes from birds:

- 1) which have been kept in a country or compartment free from clinical signs of AI but not considered free from AI infection since they were hatched or for the past 28 days;
- 2) which have been slaughtered in an *approved abattoir* and have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections for AI with favourable results.

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